

Public Law 99-328  
99th Congress

Joint Resolution

Allowing qualified persons representing all the States to be naturalized on Ellis Island on July 3 or 4, 1986.

May 28, 1986  
[H.J. Res. 613]

Whereas citizenship ceremonies are planned on July 3 and 4, 1986, as part of the centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty; Whereas, as this is a national celebration, these ceremonies should include a naturalization ceremony that truly reflects that the United States is a Nation of Immigrants;

Whereas, the immigrants who entered the United States through Ellis Island settled throughout the United States;

Whereas, it would be most appropriate to have residents from all the States participating in the naturalization ceremony; and

Whereas, the Immigration and Nationality Act limits participation in the naturalization ceremony to individuals who reside only within the jurisdiction of a single district of a United States District Court: Now, therefore, be it

8 USC 1101 note.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF 2 RESIDENTS REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH STATE.

The Governor of each State is requested to and may designate (to the Attorney General, or his designee, by not later than June 1, 1986) 2 qualified persons (as defined in section 4(1)) for naturalization as citizens of the United States in an appropriate ceremony on Ellis Island on July 3 or 4, 1986.

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.

Notwithstanding any provision of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act and notwithstanding any provision of chapter 87 of title 28, United States Code, to the contrary, each qualified person who is designated under section 1 may be naturalized on Ellis Island on July 3 or 4, 1986, before any judge or justice of the United States.

8 USC 1401.  
28 USC 1391 *et seq.*

SEC. 3. NO AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

This Act does not authorize the appropriation of any amounts for the transportation, lodging, or other expenses associated with the naturalization of designated, qualified persons under section 2.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **QUALIFIED PERSON.**—The term “qualified person” means, with respect to a State, a person—

(A) who is a resident of the State, but not a citizen of the United States,

(B) who, except as provided in section 2, has completed all statutory and regulatory requirements for naturalization, and

(C) whose application to file a naturalization petition (Form N-400) on the person's own behalf has been approved before June 1, 1986.

(2) **STATE AND GOVERNOR.**—The term "State" means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, and the term "Governor" means, with respect to a State, the chief executive officer of the State.

Approved May 28, 1986.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 613 (S.J. Res. 334):**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 99-587 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 132 (1986):

May 12, considered and passed House.

May 15, considered and passed Senate.